



Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending February 22, 2014

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response
Infectious Disease Bureau – Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

The data presented in this document are provisional and subject to change as additional reports come in.

SUMMARY

During the week ending February 22, 2014, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and geographic activity was **WIDESPREAD**. All influenza indicator levels decreased from last week, except for outbreaks, which held steady at one. Sentinel Providers reported 1.8% of visits were for ILI, which is below Maryland's baseline of 2.0%. The proportion of ILI visits reported by Emergency Departments continued to decline steadily, dropping nearly 50% over the last four weeks. The number of specimens tested at the State lab and Sentinel labs dropped, as did the proportion of specimens testing positive. There were 44 influenza-associated hospitalizations reported, which is roughly half the number that was reported at this point in the week last week.

[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels

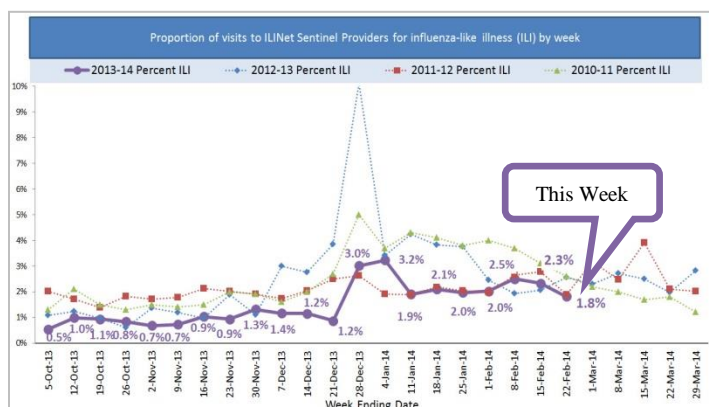
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread

No Activity
Sporadic
Local
Regional
✓ Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

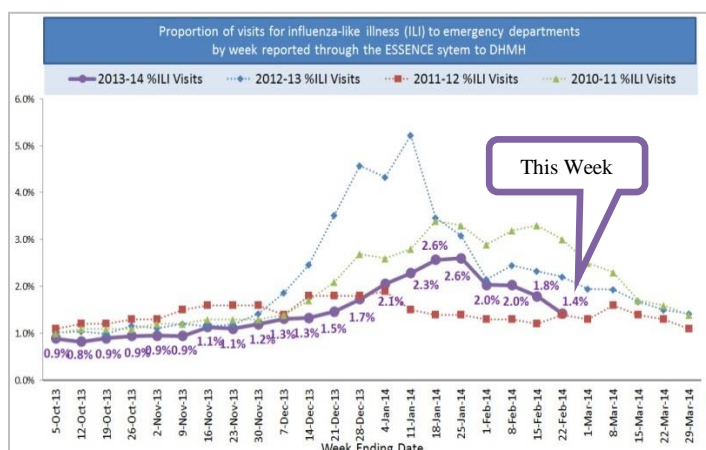
Fourteen sentinel providers reported a total of 7,310 visits this week. Of those, 133 (1.8%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of **2.0%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	33 (25%)	29 (15%)	753 (25%)
Age 5-24	44 (33%)	86 (45%)	1162 (39%)
Age 25-49	45 (34%)	54 (28%)	780 (26%)
Age 50-64	9 (7%)	16 (8%)	215 (7%)
Age ≥ 65	2 (2%)	5 (3%)	57 (2%)
Total ILI Visits	133 (100%)	190 (100%)	2967 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 45,805 visits this week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 650 (1.4%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	97 (15%)	127 (18%)	3470 (26%)
Age 5-24	155 (24%)	185 (26%)	3516 (26%)
Age 25-49	265 (41%)	275 (38%)	4477 (33%)
Age 50-64	91 (14%)	102 (14%)	1503 (11%)
Age ≥ 65	38 (6%)	33 (5%)	602 (4%)
Unknown	4 (1%)	2 (<1%)	29 (<1%)
Total ILI Visits	650 (100%)	724 (100%)	13597 (100%)

Other states' influenza information:

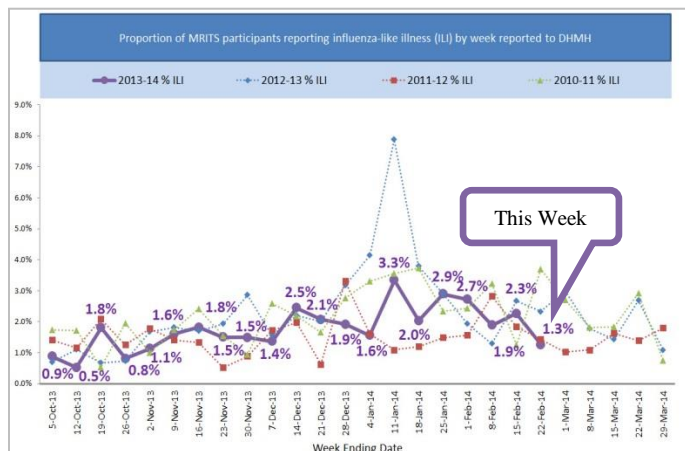
Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
Pennsylvania [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_\(flu\)/14161](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)
Virginia <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/Epidemiology/Surveillance/Influenza/>
West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

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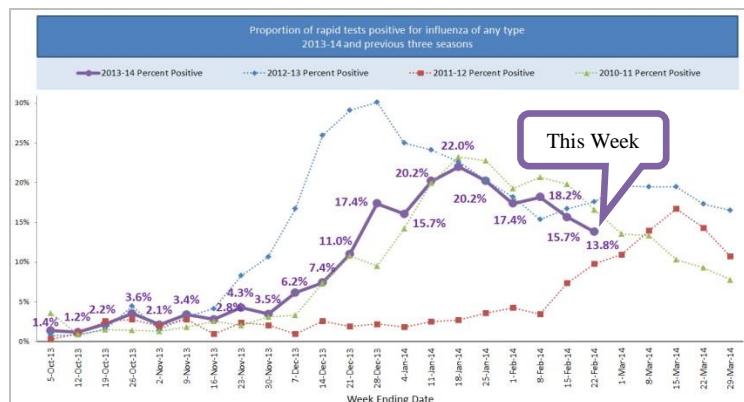
Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 637 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 8 (1.3%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 15 days of regular daily activities. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity is "Low" in Maryland.

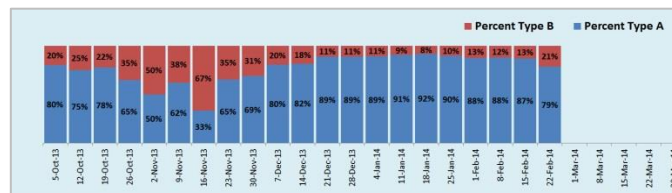


Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Thirty-four clinical laboratories reported performing 2,955 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 408 (13.8%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 322 (78.9%) were influenza Type A and 86 (21.1%) were influenza Type B. The [reliability of RIDTs](#) depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.

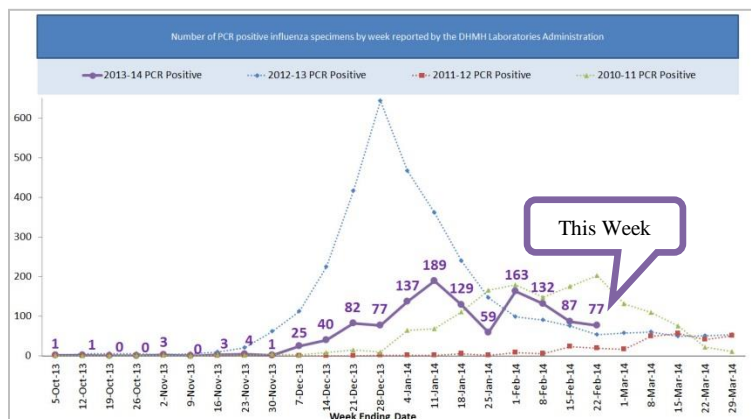


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	322 (79%)	465 (87%)	5762 (88%)
Type B	86 (21%)	70 (13%)	798 (12%)
Total	408 (100%)	535 (100%)	6560 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 147 PCR tests for influenza and 77 (52.4%) specimens tested positive. Of those, 74 (96.1%) were Type A (H1N1) and three (3.9%) were Type A (H3N2). PCR testing is more reliable than RIDT. The DHMH testing identifies subtypes of influenza A, information that is not available from the RIDT results. The table below summarizes results by type and subtype.



Positive PCR Tests by Type (Subtype)	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	74 (96%)	77 (89%)	1151 (95%)
Type A (H3)	3 (4%)	9 (10%)	46 (4%)
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--	--
Type B	--	1 (1%)	13 (1%)
Total	77 (100%)	87 (100%)	1210 (100%)

Where to get an influenza vaccination

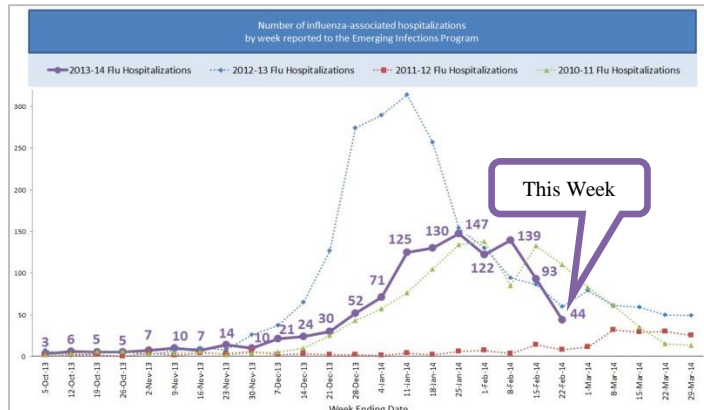
Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2013-14 influenza season? Go to <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flumnd/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

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Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

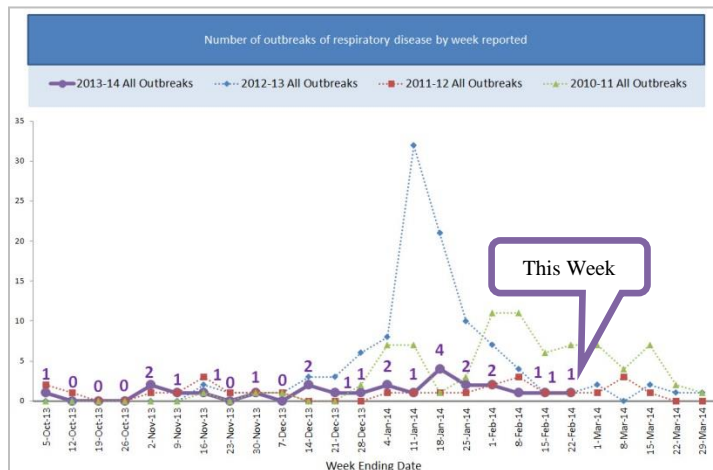
This week, hospitals in Maryland reported 44 influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. RIDT or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	3 (7%)	13 (14%)	109 (10%)
Age 5-17	2 (5%)	5 (5%)	45 (4%)
Age 18-24	3 (7%)	2 (2%)	43 (4%)
Age 25-49	12 (27%)	18 (19%)	289 (27%)
Age 50-64	9 (20%)	32 (34%)	304 (29%)
Age ≥ 65	15 (34%)	23 (25%)	275 (26%)
Total	44 (100%)	93 (100%)	1065 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

There was one outbreak of influenza reported to DHMH this week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	13 (54%)
Influenza-like Illness	--	--	6 (25%)
Pneumonia	--	--	5 (21%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	24 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

- **Viral Surveillance:** Of 6,813 specimens tested and reported during week 8 by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories, 738 (10.8%) were positive for influenza.
- **Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was above the epidemic threshold.
- **Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths:** Nine influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.
- **Influenza-associated Hospitalizations:** A season-cumulative rate of 27.4 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations per 100,000 population was reported.
- **Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 2.3%, above the national baseline of 2.0%. Eight of 10 regions reported ILI above region-specific baseline levels. Two states experienced high ILI activity; two states experienced moderate ILI activity; 10 states experienced low ILI activity; 36 states and New York City experienced minimal ILI activity, and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- **Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in 10 states was reported as widespread; 22 states reported regional influenza activity; the District of Columbia, Guam and 14 states reported local influenza activity; Puerto Rico and four states reported sporadic influenza activity, and the U.S. Virgin Islands reported no influenza activity.

